

AUGUST 1978

MONTANE' MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY



WIDELY ADAPTED

UNLIMITED USES

EXCELLENT BROWSE PLANT

'MONTANE' MOUNTAIN MAHOGANY

'Montane' Mountain Mahogany (*Cercocarpus montanus* Raf.) is a deciduous woody shrub or tree useful as a component in windbreaks, for planting on mine spoils or other disturbed areas, for various kinds of landscaping, and as a browse plant.

This variety was released in 1978 by the Agricultural Experiment Stations of New Mexico State University and Colorado State University, the *New Mexico State Highway Department*, and the USDA, Soil Conservation Service.

ORIGIN AND DESCRIPTION

Mountain Mahogany seed, accession number NM-715, was collected in October 1964 in the Santa Fe National Forest near Coyote, New Mexico. Additional seed was collected from the same area during 1965 and 1966.

This small tree or shrub may attain a height of 12 feet or more under favorable conditions. The branches are usually upright. They are gray to brown in color and round but roughened by leaf scars.

The upper surface of leaves is green to grayish-green. The lower surface is lighter in color and sometimes covered with short hairs. The plants are semi-evergreen at some locations.

The flowering period is May into July. Flowers are non-showy. The slender round seeds are up to 1/2 inch in length and have a silvery, featherlike tail up to 2-1/2 inches long attached to one end.

AREA OF ADAPTATION

This variety is adapted to the mountainous portions of Colorado and New Mexico between elevations of 3,500 to 9,500 feet within the natural range of the species. Its area of adaptation can be enlarged through

the use of supplemental water. The species is most frequently found growing in somewhat dry rocky areas.

ESTABLISHMENT

'Montane' Mountain Mahogany will be available commercially in 1979 as bare-root stock or in containers. No special planting techniques are necessary for this variety other than normal procedures for any transplanted material.

COMMERCIAL PROPAGATION

This variety is seed propagated. Stratification of the seed is recommended to help obtain good stands. The easiest method is to plant the seed prior to February and keep the soil moist until the seedlings emerge during May.

Seedlings grow slowly. Most plants need to be at least two years old before they are large enough to dig and use for potting or bare-root material. About 300 pounds of available nitrogen per acre, per year, must be applied to potted plants.

Seedlings tolerate reasonably large amounts of soil salts. However, water containing a ton of soluble salts per acre-foot of water will cause salt burn on leaves if applied through sprinklers on hot spring and summer days.

Irrigated plants are about eight years old before they produce seed. Seed held in good storage conditions has maintained relatively good viability for ten years.

Breeder seed will be maintained by the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center. Limited numbers of live plants are available to commercial growers for establishing seed source nurseries. Seed for initial commercial nursery production can be obtained from the Los Lunas PMC through Resource Conservation Districts and state crop improvement or seed growers

associations. Additional information on commercial propagation of this variety is available from the Los Lunas PMC, 1036 Miller Street SW, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was prepared and published by the New Mexico State Highway Department and the New Mexico Crop Improvement Association. Additional information is available on the use of 'Montane' Mountain Mahogany from any conservation district or Soil Conservation Service office serving your area. Assistance is available without regard to race, creed, color, sex or national origin.